

SPYING ON CHINA IS TAIWAN'S ROLE

Operations Reveal Secrets
Reds Have Long Hidden

TAIPEI, Taiwan (UPI) — Taiwan is the Peeping Tom of Asia, where spies play a deadly game of China-watching with torture and death to the losers. On this Chinese Nationalist island, science and human courage have pried apart the bamboo curtain to reveal secrets the Chinese Communists have hidden for years.

"We know everything that's going on in the mainland militarily and economically," a Nationalist intelligence source said, "and there's not much taking place politically that we don't know about."

The Nationalists use the latest espionage and detection equipment, supplied by the United States. In addition, they have agents planted throughout China and swear their intelligence network reaches deep into the inner workings of the Peking regime.

U-2's Remain Active

The latest models of the high-flying U-2 spyplane go back and forth over China, using photographic equipment so secret that no Chinese are allowed to touch it. Central Intelligence Agency men install and maintain the equipment and personally process all the film.

At least three of the U-2's have been lost over the mainland, presumably due to engine failures that forced the pilots down to lower altitudes, where they were destroyed by Communist fighters or missiles.

The riots in Macao earlier this year were a bitter blow to the Nationalists, who had been using the Portuguese colony in the Pearl River Estuary as an escape route for their agents.

Many Chinese in Taipei believe the riots in Macao were set off to force the Portuguese authorities to halt the exodus of mainland "refugees."

"The majority of these people are refugees," an intelligence officer said. "But there were also times when important agents who were trapped on the mainland sneaked across the border to Macao, claimed they were refugees and were then spirited back here."

Spies Use Parachutes

Planting spies in Communist China has never been much of a problem for the Nationalists. They can easily be parachuted.

The Nationalist offshore islands of Quemoy and Matsu have also been used as dispatch points for agents who were put ashore at various coastal rendezvous points in speedy "air-sea rescue boats." Some sources here insist the boats were operated by American crews.

The Nationalists operate a sophisticated, high-powered communication system on Taiwan. Communist radios, teletypes and Morse casts are constantly monitored and the contents analyzed by intelligence experts.

The bulk of the intelligence work is carried out at a secret Taiwan airfield where the U-2's are based. In a fenced and guarded remote section of the field are the hangars and the living quarters of the crews.

Every pilot is thoroughly screened by Chinese security officers before joining the squadron. The first of these pilots were sent to Okinawa where they were trained by the United States Air Force.

Once they join the elite U-2 squadron, the pilots stay with it until death or retirement. All are officers and most of them majors in the Nationalist Air Force.

Pilots Become Bald

The flights are long, sometimes as much as 12 hours, and the cramped, high altitude environment has had the unusual effect of causing many of the pilots to lose all their hair. In some cases the hair has grown back in; others are permanently bald.

"These reconnaissance planes gave us the first tipoff when the nuclear testing ground was being developed in Sinkiang province," an authoritative source explained.

"And they are the reason that Washington has been able to accurately forecast every [Chinese Communist] nuclear blast long before Peking revealed them."

Other spy planes operating at lower altitudes and well outside Communist China's three-mile limit are equipped with "cross-eyed" cameras that photograph hundreds of square miles of coastline and interior areas for intelligence use.

"The Reds would never be able to mount a surprise, mass attack on the Nationalist positions," an American source at Pearl Harbor said.

"For we get practically daily photographs of every harbor area from which such an attack could come. We know the size, nationality and deck cargo of every ship reporting from the China coast."